More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 101 of 105 Kansas counties, 42 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

Local students receiving honors were:

  Robinson: Bradley Michael Becker, son of Charles and Deborah Becker, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior; Robert William Jackson, son of Nancy and William Jackson, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Sophomore
  Bendena: Laura M Albers, daughter of Ronald and Martha Alber, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior
  Denton: Leigh Ann Massey, daughter of Mary Ann and Melvin Massey, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior
  Highland: Angela Kay Stewart, daughter of Diane Stewart, Nursing Undergraduate Senior
  Troy: Whitney Blaire Franken, daughter of Sheila Gaul and Tim Franken, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore; Bret Andrew Johnson, son of Greg and Carol Johnson, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Kristen Elizabeth Young, daughter of William Young, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore
  Wathena: Samuel Paul Flinders, son of Brad and Melece Flinders, Fine Arts Undergraduate Senior; Darren Michael Koehler, son of Lori and Brian Koehler, Business Undergraduate Senior
No criminal charges filed against Kansas guard Collins

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — No criminal charges will be filed against Kansas guard Sherron Collins in the case of a woman who claimed that he assaulted her on an elevator at the University of Kansas.

Douglas County District Attorney Charles Branson said Friday there was insufficient evidence to prove that Collins had done anything wrong.

"This information comes as no surprise to me," Kansas basketball coach Bill Self said in a statement. "Sherron has maintained his innocence since the day these allegations were made over a year ago. I have supported Sherron since these claims were made and will continue to do so."

Jessica J. Brown accused Collins of exposing himself and rubbing against her in an elevator on May 18, 2007, at a university apartment complex. She filed a civil lawsuit against him and was awarded damages in excess of $75,000 in June because Collins failed to file a legal response to the suit within 20 days of its filing.

Last month, Collins' lawyer filed a motion to set aside the judge's ruling, arguing that Collins did not intentionally ignore notices of the lawsuit when it was filed May 14.

The motion stated that Collins was not aware a previous attorney who had been hired to handle the case for him had ended their attorney-client relationship.

A judge is scheduled to hear arguments on that motion Aug. 1.

"Although these claims have been very hurtful to me personally and damaged my reputation, I have always been confident that there is no evidence that could implicate me in any way, shape or form," Collins said in a statement. "I am innocent of any inappropriate behavior and hopefully this news today will help return my good name."

Branson said two tests conducted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation provided no additional evidence in the case.

"The victim was very disappointed that the testing did not provide the corroborating evidence that would support a criminal charge and she understands the difficulty of pursuing a criminal case under these circumstances," Branson said.

Collins is the top returning player for the national champion Jayhawks, who lost three underclassmen — Brandon Rush, Mario Chalmers and Darrell Arthur — to the NBA draft.
More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor-roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

Honor-roll criteria vary among the university's academic departments. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled. Some establish a minimum grade-point average, and others raise a minimum grade-point average for each year students are in school.

The following honor-roll students are from Leavenworth County:

Elizabeth Bartkoski, Steven Bower, Cory Bunting, Brian Lane, Amy Roussel and Holly Sebree, Basehor; John Kennyson, Ashley Langford and Joseph Tennant, Fort Leavenworth; Emily Bogard, Brittany Bright, Elizabeth Cristiano, Alicia Cusano, Blake Deere, Patrick Dolan, Jennifer Fagan, Melissa Farr, Brandon Froelich, Rebecca Givens, Alexandria Henderson, Brent Huffman, Ashley Hunsaker, Javen Kelly, Katheryn Mooney, Dennis Partee Jr., Andrew Phillips, Alex Riemann, Holly Roberts, Matthew Walker and Melica Wiley, Lansing; Jessica Adkison, Ryan Agnew, Emily Birk, Jeffrey Christoffersen, Stephen Connelly, Brian Cordes, Andrea Cox, Mark Darling, Colby Dixon, Stephanie Dumolt, Stephanie Elliott, Thomas Gregor, Deanna Hogan, Hayley Hund, John Irvine, Tiffanie James, Alexandra Kell, Garrett Kelly, Kaitlyn Kelly, Haley Kreutzer, Abigail Krieger, James Krieger, Melanie Kurz, Jennifer Lawrence, Jonathan Matteson, Michaela McCann, Molly McCann, Heather Melanson, Mary Melton, Michael Nielsen Jr., Brian Palmer, Brett Price, Matt Scanlon, Rebecca Schwemer, Rebecca Shepard, Tara Skaggs, Colby Smith, Courtney Steele, Lauren Summers, Ashley Tacadena and Diana Toro, Leavenworth; Caitlin Rose, Linwood; and Jason Brammer, Serina Cox, Todd Davidson, John Davis, Alyssa Lorenz, Ross Low, Spencer Seman and Justin Smith, Tonganoxie.
Area teachers honored by KU for years in classroom

LAWRENCE — The School of Education at the University of Kansas has honored 797 teachers from 173 school districts statewide with certificates recognizing 25 years or more of service to education in Kansas.

Three teachers honored this year have 40 or more years of service. Ronald Daniels of Great Bend, secondary guidance counselor with Great Bend USD 428, has taught for 44 years, all in Kansas; Marilyn Quinn of Holton, elementary teacher with Holton USD 336, has 42 years experience in Kansas; and Charlotte Nelson of Salina, coordinator with Salina USD 305, was honored for 40 years of service in the state. Jeannie Presson, Cherrysvile, secondary teacher with Cherrysvile-Thayer USD 447, has been in Kansas for 36 of her 37 years as a teacher.

"Strengthening education is among the more important public policy issues facing our country," said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. "Good teaching is at the core of any success that students achieve. As leaders debate the best ways to attract and retain high quality teachers across Kansas and the country, it is important to recognize those who have dedicated their professional lives to our Kansas classrooms. The time that these teachers have given to the students in our state is significant, and we are pleased to offer this small recognition for their work and dedication."

KU's School of Education annually invites Kansas school district officials to identify educators who are eligible for recognition. Honored from Wilson County were Elizabeth Boldra, Neodesha teacher; and Tony Blackwell, Fredonia assistant principal, both of whom have been in education in Kansas for 25 years.
Debra “Deb” Snider, a criminal defense attorney from Lansing, says she is “the right choice” for Leavenworth county attorney as an Aug. 5 Republican primary election for the office nears.

Asked in a recent candidate questionnaire why she is running for county attorney, Snider, who works with Leavenworth-based Snider Law Office, said, "I believe that good, old-fashioned hard work, combined with leadership and integrity, can make the county attorney’s office more effective in prosecuting criminals and protecting our families and businesses.”

She called the current crime rate in Leavenworth County “unacceptable.” “As a citizen, I am greatly concerned about this. As a trial lawyer, I am aware of deficiencies in the county attorney’s office. I believe that with the proper leadership and a structured plan of action, these problems can be reduced and hopefully eliminated.”

Snider noted plea agreements with repeat offenders as one such “deficiency” under the county’s current county attorney, Frank Kohl.

Snider acknowledged that plea negotiations are a necessary part of criminal justice — without which the courts would become “gridlocked” and “backlogged” — but she said, “The important aspect to plea agreements is to carefully regulate their use and scope. That is where the experience and sensibility of the county attorney are so vitaly important."

Snider, a 1999 graduate of Kansas University’s School of Law, began trying cases in 2000 and, she said, has roughly 100 jury and bench trials under her belt.

She stressed that through serving as an office manager for several different professional firms, the most recent being an international trade law firm in Washington D.C., and operating her own law office, she has the requisite courtroom, life and professional experience to be considered for Leavenworth County’s next lead prosecutor.

"As a trial lawyer, I can quickly assess a case to know both its strengths and weaknesses and to structure my courtroom arguments accordingly. I am not afraid of going to trial, and I do it frequently," Snider said. “As a manager, I can work with all types of people to accomplish a goal, and I know how to positively motivate workers to function as an effective team."

Snider will square off with former assistant county attorney and the only other Republican candidate to file for the county attorney post, Todd Thompson, in the Aug. 5 primary. The winner will meet Kohl, a Democrat, in the Nov. 4 general election.

For Snider’s full responses to a candidate questionnaire, go online to basehorinfo.com/news/elections.
Naismith Hall has housing features that can't be beat

The University of Kansas has had much to celebrate recently, including a national championship in men’s basketball. Now you can attend the national champion school in one of the best housing choices available.

Naismith Hall, just off Mt. Oread and the KU campus, is loaded with amenities that other halls simply can't compete with. Basic needs aren’t a concern; Naismith Hall features an unlimited meal plan so that a hot meal is always available. Complimentary housekeeping means that students can focus on homework, and not housework. The hall also features a state-of-the-art movie theater so you and your friends can enjoy a night at the movies, in addition to free cable and Internet. For a caffeine jolt during your study time, you can visit the Coffee Cafe on-site, where students can congregate and relax. There are also study lounges found on every floor.

“We have a ton of amenities here,” said Sam Sankovich, general manager of Naismith Hall. “And our proximity to campus is a great benefit of living here.”

One area in particular where none of the other residence halls can compare is the outdoor swimming pool, where residents submerge themselves in the pool after submerging themselves in their studies. This is a great way to get some exercise and avoid that dreaded “freshmen 40.” After splashing around in the pool, you can enjoy the free tanning area.

“It is the things that we offer that makes us unbeatable by any other student housing facility,” said Kara Clayton, assistant general manager of Naismith Hall.

In addition to their top-notch housing features, when you live at Naismith Hall, you also enjoy a great location. “Naismith Hall is conveniently located on the corner of 19th and Naismith Drive adjacent to the one and only Allen Fieldhouse,” Clayton said. “Students are a seven-minute walk to Jayhawk Boulevard (the heart of campus) and across our back parking lot is the new KU student recreation center.”

Living so close to such a historic building as Allen Fieldhouse comes with many benefits, not the least of which is you never have to worry about parking when the nationally feared Jayhawks take the court.

Naismith Hall has stood next to KU’s campus for more than 40 years. Managed by Campus Advantage, Naismith is dedicated to enhancing the students’ university experience.


The Residence Life Programming is organized by the dedicated staff of Resident Assistants. The Resident Assistants organize a wide variety of events to ensure that students will always have something interesting to do.

To get the whole university experience, you need to live in a university residence hall. If you’re going to the University of Kansas, then you can't go
wrong with Naismith Hall.

For more information, call (785) 843-8559 or fax (785) 842-3991. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Naismith is located at 1800 Naismith Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044.

By choosing the University of Kansas you have made a great choice for your education. By choosing Naismith Hall, you can feel comfortable and prepared to receive all the rewards that KU offers.

Don’t miss your opportunity to live in the student housing choice that is closest to Allen Fieldhouse, home of the national champion Jayhawks.

The state-of-the-art movie theater in Naismith Hall is a perfect spot to kick back with friends and take in a film after a long day of classes.
Oldest Jewish fraternity in North America returns to KU

There can only be one first time and for students attending the University of Kansas they have the opportunity to be a part of history. This fall will be the first year that the oldest and largest Jewish fraternity in North America returns to KU. Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) will be returning to KU after a brief hiatus with a renewed emphasis on service to the community and creating a unique Jewish fraternity on the Lawrence campus.

“This is your chance to be a founding father of a new Jewish fraternity at the University of Kansas,” said Laurence Bolotin, associate executive director for Zeta Beta Tau. “The students that join will be able to create a legacy.”

Approximately 15 students have already signed up to be founding fathers and they are looking for more students who are interested in leaving a lasting legacy at KU through the formation of the new Jewish fraternity.

“ZBT is culturally Jewish in nature, but not a religious organization,” Bolotin said. “We do expect our chapters to make their presence known in the Jewish community and do things to benefit the Jewish community.”

The founding fathers of ZBT will be able to develop programs for the fraternity and to be a big part in shaping a lasting institution.

KU’s Big 12 rival has also enjoyed a resurgence of this Jewish fraternity.

Last fall ZBT re-started the Omega chapter at the University of Missouri and has enjoyed success. These efforts are part of ZBT’s plan to come to campuses where there is a large, vibrant Jewish community.

“We are looking for students who are serious about academics and who want to do something for their community,” Bolotin said.

ZBT was founded in 1898 as North America’s first Jewish fraternity. Originally founded as a Zionist youth organization, in 1906 ZBT became Zeta Beta Tau, a Greek letter college fraternity. Since the founding, ZBT has initiated more than 130,000 men. Chapters are found all over the United States and in Canada.

A unique aspect of ZBT, in 1989 ZBT abolished pledging to work toward eliminating the problem of hazing. ZBT created a four-year Brotherhood Development program that focuses on earning your membership every day you are in the fraternity and into your alumni years, rather than in just the first semester, which is common in traditional pledging.

For more information on becoming part of Zeta Beta Tau, call Laurence Bolotin at (317) 334-1898 or send him an e-mail at lbolotin@zbtnational.org. Go online and visit www.zbt.org to learn more on the oldest and largest Jewish fraternity in North America.
Jewish playwright took anti-Semitic edge off Fagin in ‘Oliver’

By Rick Heilman
Editor

If Charles Dickens refers to Fagin, the leader of the band of pickpockets, throughout the novel “Oliver Twist” as “the old Jew,” then the 20th-century Jewish playwright Lionel Bart was determined to undo that bit of stereotyping.

That is how Kansas University Assistant Professor of Theater and Film Henry Bial, reads the Bart version of “Oliver,” which is being staged by the Jewish Community Center, starting this Sunday. (See box for details) Bial, who is the author of “Acting Jewish: Negotiating Ethnicity on the American Stage and Screen” (University of Michigan Press, 2005), is scheduled to lead the post show-discussion after the matinee of “Oliver” Sunday, July 20.

The Dickens novel was published in 1838, nearly a century before Bart was born in London.

In an interview on the KU campus, Bial noted that Bart “was originally Lionel Begleiter, and he was a Londoner of Galician Jewish descent.” He wrote

Playing the role of Fagin, the leader of the pick pockets, Cary Mock rehearses for the Play “Oliver” Monday at the Lewis and Shirley White Theater.

the book, music and lyrics for the musical.

“Bart turns ‘Oliver Twist’ on its head with regard to Jewish stereotypes,” Bial said. “Fagin in the musical is not a sinister predator of the anti-Semitic imagination, but more of a charismatic rogue in the classical, theatrical tradition of people whom we know that on some level they are criminal, but we like them because they are fun, exciting and interesting. In a sense, he is Oliver’s surrogate father, or mentor.”

That’s a stark contrast to Dickens’ novel. In 19th century Europe, Bial said, “the Fagin stereotype was so pervasive, so established, that for a lot of people, just the fact that he’s Fagin is enough to invoke that anti-Semitic idea.”

“If you look at the Dickens novel, he goes to fairly great lengths to establish how sinister Fagin is, and that these qualities are intrinsically related to his being Jewish. He’s sinister, in large part, because he’s Jewish, and Jews are sinister. Dickens didn’t invent that. It comes from a British tradition of Shylock, (Christopher) Marlowe’s play ‘The Jew of Malta’ and the expulsion of Jews from London how many centuries ago.”

see Oliver, page 11
Bial noted that Bart’s is the only musical adaptation of “Oliver Twist.” It was originally done in the West End and premiered in New York in 1963. The 1968 film version won the Oscar for Best Picture, while Ron Moody, who played Fagin, was nominated for Best Actor. Cary Mock plays Fagin in the CenterStage production.

“In the musical, whether Fagin is Jewish never really comes up,” Bial said. “At the same time, if you’ve read the novel, can’t not know or think about the negative stereotype.

“The composer, clearly, as a Jew himself, had an investment in erasing Fagin’s Jewishness from the show. He didn’t simply say ‘OK, well, we’re still going to have Fagin, and he’s not going to be Jewish.’ What he did was more interesting. He said ‘We’re going to have Fagin; he’s not going to be Jewish; but for those who might recognize him as Jewish, he’s also going to be the good guy, in the sense that he turns out to be charming and not so bad after all. The real villain of the musical is the criminal, Bill Sykes.”
KC BioMediX receives state funding

KC BioMediX of Shawnee will receive an equity investment of $400,000 to commercialize technologies developed at Kansas University for the care of infants born prematurely, the Kansas Bioscience Authority announced Tuesday at its annual meeting in Overland Park.

The company’s FDA-approved device, the NTrainer System, uses state-of-the-art hardware and software to treat preemies who have difficulty feeding orally so they can quickly gain strength and grow. This award follows a $150,000 KBA investment last fall and is part of a $4 million round of company financing.
KATRINA SEGERS - STAFF WRITER

The strongest Kansas earthquake shook the state on April 24, 1867. According to the United States Geological Service, the quake in Manhattan registered 5.1 on the Richter magnitude scale. Rex Buchanan, deputy director of the Kansas Geological Survey at the University of Kansas, said people in Johnson County reported items falling off walls.

There have been smaller quakes in Kansas through the years. In 1931, a 4.5 quake happened near Turner, knocking pictures off walls in Merriam and causing people to flee to the streets, Buchanan said.

The most recent quake in the state occurred Jan. 1 south of Wichita.

Buchanan said Kansas faces more of a threat from the larger New Madrid fault line, which stretches southwest from New Madrid, Mo., than the Humboldt fault, which snakes through Kansas and could potentially have an epicenter near Manhattan or Topeka.

NEW MADRID QUAKE, 2A
New Madrid quake could be felt here

"There are all sorts of faults in the state that we don't know about. These things are generally only in the subsurface and so we don't have a real easy way of seeing them," Buchanan said.

Gary Patterson, information services director and geologist, University of Memphis, U.S. Geological Survey, said taller buildings are most at risk in the metro area because of impact from waves moving from an earthquake's epicenter.

"As an earthquake occurs and waves from that earthquake move away from the epicenter the wave lengths become larger, the crests of the waves move farther apart. Every building has its own natural wiggle, its own natural resonant frequency. Like a tuning fork, if you hit the right note it will make it wiggle. So, if the ground motions from an incoming earthquake match or harmonize with the natural resonant frequency of the building, like a tuning fork, the motion of the building is amplified and it can be substantial. Then it comes down to how the building has been built."

Patterson said calls from Kansas City after the Mount Carmel, Ill., earthquake on April 18 did not surprise him.

"Most of them were from people who were in seven-story buildings or taller," he said. "It tells us that this long period phenomenon, this impact of earthquakes on tall buildings at distances, really does happen, but it's still a remote possibility for damage (in the Kansas City area) compared to St. Louis or Memphis."

Ali Haris, president of Haris Engineering, Overland Park, said structures in Kansas are built to code for earthquakes.

"In Overland Park the applicable building code is (International Building Code) 2006. There are chapters that address seismic design," Haris said.

"Also, we go to the government geological map that addresses each area, what are the seismic factors. These maps force us to actually use factors and incorporate that into all equations required by the IBC Codes and we come up with lateral loads."

"For each building we will design it for wind, for lateral load and for seismic based on these requirements of the codes and maps."

Patterson said many elements factor into damage during an earthquake.

"It's not just about how far away you are, it's about the kind of building you are in and what kind of soil you are sitting on," he said.

It is logical, Patterson said, that Johnson County would be affected if an earthquake the size of the one in China occurred on the New Madrid fault line.

"It's not a stretch to think that area wouldn't feel a magnitude 6 in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which has a 25 to 40 percent chance of occurring in a 50-year time window," he said.

In the event of an earthquake, Nick Crossley, interim director of the Johnson County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, said the county would be ready to react.

"The procedures are the same; they don't change with the incident, doesn't matter if a tornado or earthquake knocked over the building," Crossley said.